

CRS/Pakistan

Transitional Shelter Response for Flood-Affected Households in Sindh - # AID-OFDA-G-13-00008

QUARTERLY REPORT

01 JULY 2013 – 30 SEPTEMBER 2013



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<p>Project Title: Project Number: Project Duration: Project Cost: Reporting Period: Date of submission:</p>	<p>Transitional Shelter Response for Flood-Affected Households in Sindh #AID-OFDA-G-13-00008 December 03, 2012 – March 02, 2014 \$3,080,156 July 01, 2013 – September 30, 2013 October 31, 2013</p>

I. Project Background

From 7 to 10 September 2012, heavy rain inundated communities in northern Sindh, northeastern Balochistan and southern Punjab Provinces of Pakistan with more than 400mm of rain resulting in widespread flooding. Catholic Relief Services (CRS) is currently responding to the shelter needs of communities heavily affected by both the catastrophic 2010 and 2012 floods. In August 2013, a no-cost extension (NCE) was approved for a 2 months. Later in August submitted a cost modification to OFDA for construction of an additional 1,010 shelters and a 6 month program extension. Overall with the modifications, the CRS shelter program has received a total of \$3,479,291 – a grant from OFDA for \$3,080,156; complemented by \$252,897 (€191,817) from Cordaid, and \$146,238 from CRS funds. The shelter program plans to support a total of 5,167 households (approximately 31,002 beneficiaries) in Jacobabad District, Sindh Province whose homes were destroyed or severely damaged in the floods.

CRS began implementing the shelter program in December 2012 to support households in their villages of origin in Union Council (UC) Karim Bux and later expanded the shelter programming into a further three UCs Bachro, Ahmedpur and Nawra with adequate, durable, flood resistant transitional one room shelters (ORS), aligned with both the shelter cluster approach and Sphere Minimum Standards, and incorporating essential DRR elements. The program - *'Transitional Shelter Response for Flood-Affected Household in Sindh'* - will run for a fifteen months period from 3 December 2012 to 2 March 2014.

Project highlights this quarter:

- Registration of 816 households. New total achievement of 3,979 households (4157 shelter kits¹) (23,138 beneficiaries) from 323 villages in UC Karim Bux, UC Bachro and UC Ahmed Pur.
- Training of 6 new skilled laborers. A total of 137 local skilled laborers have been trained.
- Distribution of 1,116 shelter materials kits. New total 3,968 shelter kits for 3,795 households¹ (21,978 beneficiaries)
- Completion of 1,331 shelters with plaster. New total 3,620 completed with plaster
- Training of 33 communities (on Operation and Maintenance for shelters. New achieved total of 111 communities.
- CRS and Cordaid technical visit and review of shelter program

II. Objectives:

Program Goal: Flood-affected households live in safe and dignified shelter

Beneficiaries:

- Total Number of Beneficiaries Targeted: 5,167 households (approximately 31,002 beneficiaries)
- Total Number of IDP Beneficiaries Targeted: 0 households (0 beneficiaries)
- Age and Gender Disaggregation (*of registered households*):

# Under 18 / Male	# Under 18 / Female	# Over 18 / Male	# Over 18 / Female	Total
7,473	6,583	4,414	4,668	23,138
32.2%	28.5%	19.1%	20.2%	100%

Indicator	Description	Target	Results - end of September 2013
Indicator 1:	Number of households in the program area receiving emergency/transitional shelter	5,167 (31,002 individuals)	3,795 Households, 3,968 shelter kits (21,978 individuals)

¹ Households with 10 or more people are eligible for 2 shelters

Indicator 2:	Number of households in the program area receiving emergency/transitional shelter pursuant to Sphere Project standards and FOG guidelines	5,167 (31,002 individuals)	3,795 Households, (3,968 shelter kits/ 21,978 individuals)
Indicator 3:	Percentage of total affected population in the program area receiving emergency/transitional shelter assistance, by sex	71,681 ² HHs affected (50% male, 50% female ³)	3,795 HHs or 5.6% of affected population (51.4% male, 48.6% female)
Indicator 4:	Total USD amount and percent of approved project budget for emergency/transitional shelter assistance spent on goods and services produced in the affected host country economy.	\$ 2,096,623	\$ 1,363,703 65% of target
Indicator 5:	95% of targeted households (4,908 households) live in shelters that meet Sphere guidelines by 02 March 2014.	4,908 (95%)	3,458 HHs are living in 3,620 ¹ (70%) sphere complaint Shelters
Indicator 6:	80% of targeted households (4,133 households) report the shelter support they received was useful, timely and of good quality.	4,133 (80%)	Useful & timely (99%) Good quality (98%) ⁴
Indicator 7:	60% of targeted households (3,100 households) have started building transitional shelters within two weeks after material distribution.	3,100 (60%)	89% ⁵

III. Activities and Outputs:

Procurement:

During the reporting period no new procurement was initiated. CRS plans to initiate bidding for the procurement of shelter materials, plastic sheeting and tools for the remaining 1,010 shelters in October 2013. As per the past practice, CRS will contract a vendor to open up a temporary warehouse in Jacobabad, and beneficiaries will directly collect materials via a voucher methodology. In order to ensure the highest quality standards of shelter materials before arrival to Jacobabad, the CRS Senior Quality Control Engineer will travel to the vendor's source sites to inspect materials in the presence of vendor representatives.

Targeting, Household Registration and Mobilization:

Prior to starting household registration CRS and its partner PREPARED conducted village wise meetings with all community members to provide orientation on the targeting criteria, the shelter design, and the importance of the raised plinth and other DRR related initiatives in this program. CRS targeted households whose homes were either totally destroyed or severely damaged and uninhabitable from the 2012 flood. The registration criteria were clearly displayed on panaflex banner in Sindhi, and explained to every household during registration. 323 shelter committees, formed to facilitate project activities in the villages signed MOUs to outline roles and responsibilities. Each committee included two female committee members.

CRS began household registration on December 17, 2012. At the end of the current reporting period, CRS had registered a total of 3,979 households (23,138 beneficiaries) from 323 villages across all 10 *Dehs*⁶ of UC Karim Bux, 8 *Dehs* of UC Bachro and 6 *Dehs* of UC Ahmedpur including 306 vulnerable households. Each UC was selected progressively for intervention after consultation and input from the Shelter Cluster. CRS communicated actively with all stakeholders in Jacobabad to ensure proper coordination, identify priority areas for support, and

² The Final MIRA results report a total 71,681 partially and fully damages houses in Jacobabad District

³ Preliminary MIRA results indicate that Jacobabad District of Sindh Province has a male to female population ratio of 50% to 50%. No figures included in the Final MIRA report.

⁴ Results from the Real Time Evaluation conducted in March/April 2013.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ A "deh" is an administrative unit used in Pakistan that includes multiple communities but is smaller than a union council.

avoid overlap. CRS also regularly shares program progress via the 4W matrix with the NFI/Shelter cluster, and attended cluster meetings in Jacobabad (District), Sukkur (Provincial), and Islamabad (National).

The shelter size (12 feet x 19 feet) is consistent with the size of existing permanent houses in the area and is sufficient to house 6 family members in accordance with Sphere standards. It was envisaged that CRS would provide 2 shelter kits for families of 10 or more. Based on this criterion and the household data collected 232 families were eligible for two shelters (6%); however, only 178 households accepted to build both shelters. The reasons given by households to only build one house were a lack of resources to raise two plinths or limited available land on which to build. CRS field staff have observed that where two shelters have been provided, that some households are using this second shelter for their animals. CRS field teams have adjusted the process for larger households to provide greater mobilization to clarify the expected usage of the materials and shelter.

Number of members in HH	# of HHs	# of beneficiaries	%
6 and below	2,619	1,1726	67%
7 – 9	1,128	8,792	27%
10 and above	232	2,620	6%
Total	3,979	23,138	100%

Plinth raising:

Following registration, CRS and PREPARED staff orient households for the raising of a plinth. The raised plinth was a precondition for each community before shelter kits were distributed and a key DRR element designed to protect homes from flooding in the future. CRS distributed tools⁷ to each village with funds from Cordaid to support households' efforts. In each village, CRS and PREPARED held comprehensive community discussions on the expected origin of the mud to ensure that mud was taken from unused, non-agriculture land, and would not create new hazards within the community.

Distribution of shelter materials:

Following household registration and the raising of plinths, CRS and PREPARED distributed a Shelter Material Voucher to each household. Each voucher clearly shows the name of the beneficiary, CNIC number, voucher distribution date, material collection date, and the full BoQ of the material each household would receive. At the time of voucher distribution, CRS explained to each household the material collection process, and location of the vendor warehouse in Jacobabad city.

On distribution days, beneficiaries come to the vendor warehouse with their own transportation to collect the materials. Two Panaflex banners are located at the vendor warehouse with a list of all materials the households are eligible to receive. Beneficiaries select the shelter materials they prefer⁸. During the reporting period 1,116 shelters kits were distributed from the vendor warehouse. In total 3,968 shelters kits have been distributed to 3,795 families.

Identification and training of skilled laborers:

In the reporting period, CRS trained a total of 6 new skilled laborers. Overall CRS and PREPARED have trained a total of 137 skilled laborers on the construction of the shelters according to the design and specifications of the ORS. The skilled laborers were from UC Karim Bux, UC Bachro, UC Ahmedpur or neighboring villages who were engaged directly by the community for construction of their shelters. CRS discussed and signed a formal agreement with each skilled labor in the presence of village committees. During the reporting period, CRS has paid a total of \$33,672 through OFDA funds to 137 skilled laborers, for work on an average of 24 shelters each.

⁷ One hoe/spade per household, and 2 wheel barrows for every 5 households. The estimated cost per household is \$10.

⁸ Beneficiaries select bamboos and popular columns from the stockpiles. All materials have the same specifications but differ sometimes in how straight they are or thick they are because they are natural materials.

Shelter construction:

During the reporting period 1,401 shelters have been newly constructed, out of which 1,331 have also been completed with mud plaster. At the end of September 2013, a total of 3,890 core shelters were constructed with the support of the skilled laborers out of which 3,620 have also been completed with mud plaster. CRS and PREPARED's technical teams were in the field daily to visit targeted villages and provide technical support and guidance. The latest set of programming photos is attached as **Annex A**.

One major challenge experienced by the shelter program within the reporting period has been the presence of insects in some of the shelters. The issue of termites is very common in the wetter months (July/August). CRS and the contracted material vendor took a number of preventative measures – (i) vendor sprayed all materials at the beginning of August, (ii) vendor restacked materials to try to mitigate against insect infestations, and (iii) at the end of August, infected bamboos were separated from non-infected bamboos and the vendor replaced the infected material. There were however shelter materials distributed in August/September (total 666 shelters) in UC Ahmedpur, and there have been observed termites in some of these newly constructed shelters. In October 2013, CRS and PREPARED field staff will visit all households in UC Ahmedpur and a random sample of households from UC Karim Bux and UC Bachro will be taken for further inspection of pre-august distributed shelters to establish the severity of insect infestation. Once the monitoring exercise has been completed, CRS will assess the best course of action. This could be spraying of kerosene for all shelters and replacement of the badly affected bamboos in some shelters.

O&M/ DRR:

In the previous reporting period, CRS and PREPARED developed an Operation & Maintenance / DRR manual, which focuses on sensitization and mobilization exercises to ensure the perpetual maintenance of the shelter and adopting those practices which would help in reducing the risks during disaster. The community O&M session is a half day activity in which the shelter committee members are trained (7 people, 5 male 2 female). The shelter committee is made responsible to ensure the adherence to the O&M guidelines, and sharing information with shelter beneficiaries in their communities. During the reporting period total of 33 O&M sessions were conducted with 231 members of the village shelter committees. Overall to date a total of 111 O&M sessions were conducted in 111 villages reaching 777 committee members.

Transportation Payments:

CRS budgeted 600 PKR per shelter for the purpose of transporting shelter material from the vendor warehouse to the village. This payment is made after completion of the shelter with mud plaster. In total \$12,985 has been paid for 2,164 shelters for the transportation. In addition 107 Cash Grant payments, each amounting to 600 PKR, have also been made to vulnerable households for unskilled labor totaling \$644.

Technical Advisors Visit:

In August/September 2013, CRS and Cordaid Technical Advisors for Shelter visited Jacobabad and the shelter program. The advisors conducted a technical review of the CRS constructed shelters, and additionally visited shelters constructed by ACTED, Concern/Devcon, UN Habitat, and Save the Children for comparative analysis for cost and durability. A reflection workshop was held in Jacobabad with the CRS and PREPARED field staff to discuss any necessary technical and social adjustments (for example additions to the O&M manual) to further strengthen the program. Information was shared with the Shelter Technical Working Group (TWIG) in Islamabad in early September 2013. For the CRS shelter program, the following technical modifications were recommended for the final 1,010 shelters to be constructed:

- **Increased size of the veranda** – The current veranda size is 5 foot, and the recommendation is to increase to 8 foot. The recommendation is based on feedback from communities through monitoring data and the technical visit that the veranda is very valued and utilized as the main living space for community members during the hot summer months. For approximately 8 months of the year family members sleep outside under the veranda (while their belongings are safely inside the shelters).

- **Change from bamboo to poplar for central ridge beam** – In order to improve the strength and durability of the shelters the central beam is to be changed from one bamboo to two poplars.
- **Increase in lime** – Following discussions with mud specialists in Pakistan (Heritage Foundation), the recommended is to increase lime stone from 20kg to 60kg.
- **Increase in cotton rope** – Increase in cotton binding rope to improve the strength of the shelters.

To reflect these modifications new shelter drawings (**Annex B**) and BoQ (**Annex C**) were developed for the program. In terms of cost implications for the modifications, there is currently \$435 budgeted for each shelter and based on the latest shelter material costs the modified shelter can be constructed without increasing the budget per shelter. The changes were discussed in-country with OFDA representatives in September 2013.

Quality Management Training:

In mid-September 2013, CRS facilitated a one-day quality management training for Shelter Cluster organizations. The training was facilitated by CRS Shelter Program Manager and the CRS Senior Quality Engineer. There were a total of 14 participants in the training - although demand was higher – only the organizations with active shelter programming in Sindh were trained on this occasion. The full list of participating organizations is below:

- *INGOs:* Concern Worldwide, Cesvi, ACTED
- *Local NGOs:* Save the nature and humanity development organization (STNAH), HANDS, Development of Institution & Youth Alliance (DIYA) Ghotki, Association for Humanitarian Development (AHD), DevCon – An Association for Rural Development, HWA Foundation Ghotki, Action for Humanitarian Development (AHD), Indus Resource Center, Goth Seengar Foundation (GSF), plus Shelter Cluster staff.

The participatory training covered material quality and its importance in humanitarian sector, material quality specifications, selection of vendors, standards and methods of quality inspection and inspection protocols and material handling at different stages. This was first training conducted for the shelter stakeholders in northern Sindh, and there was very positive feedback on the contents and usefulness of the training and facilitation, and participants fed back that they planned to apply the techniques learnt in their respective organizations.

Accountability, Monitoring and Evaluation:

CRS and PREPARED conduct regular program monitoring activities – both through their day to day visits within the communities and specific monitoring exercises. This is in addition to a comprehensive accountability and transparency mechanism for both beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries to contact CRS. Regular monitoring activities included:

- Weekly programmatic planning and reflection sessions
- Weekly review of complaints database
- Exit interviews at distribution points
- Real Time Evaluation (conducted in April 2013)
- Technical construction monitoring

CRS and PREPARED conduct an exit interview at the vendor warehouse for each distribution day. By the end of September 2013, a total of 259 shelter recipients had given feedback. Key results include:

- 99% had received sufficient information prior to arriving to the distribution point and that the distribution timing was appropriate, and 98% felt the distribution location was appropriate.
- On average beneficiaries waited for 50 minutes at the distribution site before receiving materials, and 98% felt that this was an appropriate time to wait.

- 99% stated that they received all the items that they had expected, 1% stated that they had anticipated receiving plastic sheeting⁹. 99% stated that material quality met their expectations, while 1% stated that the cheick mat was of poor quality.
- 98% had planned transport for materials prior to distribution day, with 91% transporting materials by tractor trolley, 2% by medium sized Mazda truck and 7% by large truck. On average beneficiaries paid 740 PKR for their transport – which is 140 PKR higher than the 600 PKR provided through the program.
- 87% stated that they knew how to contact CRS or PREPARED.
- 2% had recommendations for improvements to future distributions – (i) distribution point should be closer to villages, (ii) materials should be provided in the village, and (iii) water and latrine facilities should be provided at distribution point. Based on feedback (and Sphere standards), drinking water and latrines were made available at the distribution point to beneficiaries from February 2013. These are recommendations are from the previous reporting data. During the reporting period no recommendation was added by beneficiaries.

IV. Analysis of Project Activities

a. Program Successes

- **Quality Management training:** CRS facilitated a one day training on material quality management in Sukkur for other local and international NGOs working on shelter programming in Sindh Province.
- **Mud plastering after rains:** In some shelters the mud plastering was damaged following rains in August 2013. CRS field teams have observed that community members have restarted mud plastering once the rain season was over.
- **Incorporating feedback:** After the visit from the CRS and Cordaid technical advisors recommendations have been incorporated into the program to further strengthen both the processes of the program and also the final shelter which is built by families.

b. Challenges and Constraints

- **Termites:** Despite preventative measures taken, a large number of the shelters distributed in August and September 2013 are observed to have been infected by termites. In October 2013 CRS will conduct a comprehensive follow-up in the communities to establish the severity of insect infestation. Based on the findings CRS will decide on the best course of action.
- **Delays to program activities:** During the reporting period, wheat crop cultivation activities, Ramadan and Eid celebrations as well as hot weather and rains impacted the progress of the project. The above mentioned circumstances made it difficult for CRS to register beneficiaries and for beneficiaries to raise their plinth and apply mud plaster on their shelters. The delays also affected the construction process as also skilled laborers were busy with wheat crop cultivation.
- **High water table:** Due to the high water table aggravated by the 2013 monsoon rains, CRS teams observed water at a depth of 1 ft. below NSL (Natural Surface Level) when digging pits for grounding the shelters' columns. Community members who experienced this problem applied a mixture of motor oil and coal tar on the bottom of each poplar to improve its water resistance.
- **Migration of households:** In total CRS field teams have information that 34 families have migrated out of their original villages. Of the 34 families, 15 households have migrated with their shelters and 19 households have temporarily migrated, leaving their house, but planning to return. CRS plans in the next reporting period to establish contact with each family to try and understand further the dynamics of the migration.

VI. Activities Planned for the Next Quarter:

The main activities planned for the next period are as follows:

- Termite monitoring follow up exercise

⁹ This feedback was received from the beneficiaries who did not receive plastic sheeting, due to receiving at an earlier date from Save the Children

- Procurement of 1,010 shelter materials and tools
- Registration of final 1,010 households in UC Nawra, distribution of shelter materials and technical support to the construction of shelters.
- Visit from CRS Technical Advisor for Shelter and Settlements planned for October 2013, for a training session with CRS and PREPARED staff in village site planning. This visit will further ensure that DRR consideration from the outset of the program are incorporated by communities.
- Follow-up on migrated families
- O&M sessions.
- Skilled labor and transportation and Cash Grant payments.

Annexes

- Annex A Programmatic Photos
- Annex B Updated Shelter Drawings
- Annex C Updated Shelter BoQ